

## Purpose

Under the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act or CAPTA (Public Law 111-320), a referral of a child under the age of three who is involved in a substantiated case of abuse or neglect must be made to the early intervention program funded by Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). In Missouri, the Part C of IDEA is known as First Steps.

The Missouri Department of Social Services (DSS), Children's Division requires staff to refer any child under age three who meets the criteria of CAPTA to First Steps. This report provides information related to the children referred to First Steps with a referral source of CAPTA or DSS in calendar year 2017.

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## Children Referred to the First Steps Program\*

In calendar year 2017, 1,147 children were referred to the First Steps program by the Department of Social Services Children's Division. Of the 1,147 children, 448 children (39.1%) had a referral source of CAPTA, and 699 children had a referral source of Department of Social Services.

Of the 448 children referred with a referral source of CAPTA, 121 children (27.0%) were found eligible and reached the status of an Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP). The remaining 327 children did not reach IFSP status due to the following reasons: 159 were withdrawn by a parent or guardian; 93 were Part C ineligible; 52 were unable to contact/locate; 17 were refused by SPOE; and 6 were an Inquiry Only.

Of the 699 children referred with a referral source of DSS, 225 children (32.2%) were found eligible and reached the status of an Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP). The remaining 474 children did not reach IFSP status due to the following reasons: 207 were Part C ineligible; 167 were withdrawn by a parent or guardian; 83 were unable to contact/locate; 12 were refused by SPOE; 4 were inquiry only; and 1 child was deceased before IFSP could be completed.

\*Referral records that were closed with the reason *Inquiry Only* were included in this report.

## Active Children by SPOE Region

Table 1 represents the 448 children referred to First Steps with a referral source of CAPTA and their eligibility percentages by SPOE region.

<b>Table 1: CAPTA Referrals and First Steps Status for Calendar Year 2017</b>			
<b>SPOE Region</b>	<b>Referred to FS</b>	<b>Reached IFSP</b>	<b>% Served</b>
Region 1 - Greater St. Louis	33	8	24.2%
Region 2 - St. Louis County	17	1	5.9%
Region 3 - Northeast	49	15	30.6%
Region 4 - Northwest Missouri	35	8	22.9%
Region 5 - Greater Kansas City	19	4	21.1%
Region 6 - Central Missouri	52	13	25.0%
Region 7 - Southwest Missouri	32	11	34.4%
Region 8 - South Central Missouri	60	20	33.3%
Region 9 - East Central Missouri	36	4	11.1%
Region 10 - Southeast Missouri	115	37	32.2%
<b>Total</b>	<b>448</b>	<b>121</b>	<b>27.0%</b>

Table 2 represents the 699 children referred to First Steps with a referral source of DSS and their eligibility percentages by SPOE region.

<b>Table 2: DSS Referrals and First Steps Status for Calendar Year 2017</b>			
<b>SPOE Region</b>	<b>Referred to FS</b>	<b>Reached IFSP</b>	<b>% Served</b>
Region 1 - Greater St. Louis	53	15	28.3%
Region 2 - St. Louis County	103	41	39.8%
Region 3 - Northeast	35	7	20.0%
Region 4 - Northwest Missouri	55	19	34.5%
Region 5 - Greater Kansas City	63	16	25.4%
Region 6 - Central Missouri	53	19	35.8%
Region 7 - Southwest Missouri	59	29	49.2%
Region 8 - South Central Missouri	145	38	26.2%
Region 9 - East Central Missouri	73	16	21.9%
Region 10 - Southeast Missouri	60	25	41.7%
<b>Total</b>	<b>699</b>	<b>225</b>	<b>32.2%</b>

For a map of the SPOE regions, visit the First Steps website at:

<http://dese.mo.gov/sites/default/files/se-fs-spo-contact-information-by-region.pdf>

## Service Authorizations

Table 3 represents the First Steps service authorizations for the 121 children referred to First Steps with a referral source of CAPTA who received First Steps services. At the end of calendar year 2017, there were a total of 413 active authorizations for the 121 children.

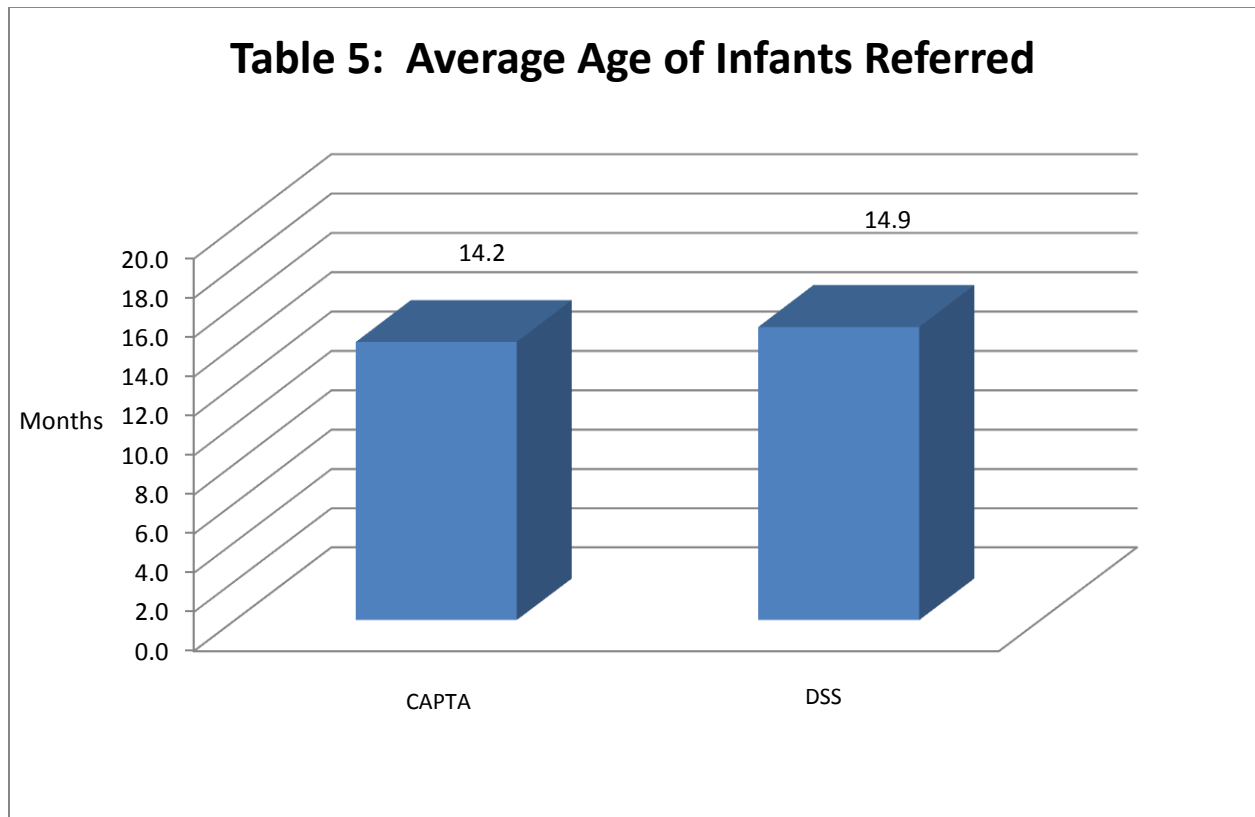
<b>Table 3: First Steps Authorizations Resulted from CAPTA Referrals</b>		
<b>Service Type</b>	<b>Authorization Count</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
El Testing	108	26.2%
Special Instruction	98	23.7%
Speech Language Pathology	64	15.5%
Physical Therapy	61	14.8%
Occupational Therapy	48	11.6%
Assistive Technology	9	2.2%
Applied Behavior Analysis	7	1.7%
Dietary/Nutrition Services	4	1.0%
Sign/Cued Language Services	4	1.0%
Counseling	3	0.7%
Translation Services	3	0.7%
Vision Services	2	0.5%
Audiology	1	0.2%
Social Work	1	0.2%
<b>Total</b>	<b>413</b>	<b>100%</b>

Table 4 represents the First Steps service authorizations for the 225 children referred to First Steps with a referral source of DSS who received First Steps services. At the end of calendar year 2017, there were a total of 839 active authorizations for the 225 children.

<b>Table 4: First Steps Authorizations Resulted from DSS Referrals</b>		
<b>Service Type</b>	<b>Authorization Count</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
El Testing	202	24.1%
Special Instruction	174	20.7%
Speech Language Pathology	150	17.9%
Occupational Therapy	115	13.7%
Physical Therapy	114	13.6%
Assistive Technology	23	2.7%
Applied Behavior Analysis	14	1.7%
Dietary/Nutrition Services	13	1.5%
Social Work	12	1.4%
Counseling	8	1.0%
Translation Services	6	0.7%
Audiology	4	0.5%
Vision Services	2	0.2%
Team Meeting - Eligibility	2	0.2%
<b>Total</b>	<b>839</b>	<b>100.00%</b>

## Average Age

Table 5 represents the average age of the 448 children referred to First Steps by CAPTA and the 699 children referred to First Steps by DSS. The average age of children referred to First Steps in 2017 was 14.2 months for CAPTA referrals and 14.9 months for DSS referrals.



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